(b) whether Government is aware that exchange of such vital and classified information over such open on-line forums is treated as a serious breach of security;

(c) whether Government is also aware that foreign intelligence agencies scout for such vital information on the Internet; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No report pertaining to sharing of classified defence information on social networking sites involving defence service personnel has come to the notice of Government.

(b) Defence personnel are periodically sensitized to nuances of military security and the implication of sharing classified information with strangers or on social network. They are also aware of the implications of such sharing under Indian Official Secret Act, 1923.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. To tackle such activities, following actions are initiated on regular basis:—

(i) Sensitisation of defence and civilian personnel at all levels, with special attention paid to new entrants in training institutes.

(ii) Regular policy guidelines are issued for compliance.

(iii) Checks/audits are undertaken by in-house teams to locate any breach.

(iv) Directives have been issued to take stern action against defaulters.

Armaments destroyed in accidents

887. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of value and tonnage of the armaments destroyed in the accidents in the ordnance depots and factories since 1998;

(b) whether Government also ascertained the causes of the accidents in the convoys carrying ordnance for Operation Parakram;

(c) what have been the causes of such accidents and whether the possibility of any sabotage has also been examined;

(d) what steps have been taken to expeditiously replenish the ordnance supply to the combat troops; and

(e) what steps have been taken to insulate the ordnance factories and depots from such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) The details of value and tonnage of the armament destroyed in the accidents at various Ammunition depots of the Army since 1998 are as under:

Sl. No.	Depots	Date of Accident	Estimated Value of ammunition destroyed	Estimated Tonnage of ammunition destroyed (Metric Tones)
(i)	Ammunition Depot, Bharatpur	28th April 2000	Rs.387 crores	12969 MT
(ii)	Field Ammunition Depot, Pathankot	29th April 2001	Rs.27 crores	385.64 MT
(iii)	Field Ammunition Depot, Ganganagar	24th May 2001	Rs. 375 crores	8006 MT
(iv)	Ammunition Depot, Dappar	27th July 2002	Nil	
(v)	Field Ammunition Depot, Jodhpur	2nd August 2002	Nil	
(vi)	Central Ammunition Depot, Pulgaon	22nd March 2005	Rs.22 crores	126.614 MT
(vii)	Field Ammunition Depot, Khundroo	11th August 2007	A Court of Inquiry has been ordered. Before the completion of Court of Inquiry it will be premature to indicate any estimate of damage caused.	

2. In case of Ordnance Factories, which are Defence Production units under the Ordnance Factory Board, the total value of Government property including armaments destroyed due to accidents since 1998 has been assessed as Rs. 7,37,97,620.

3. The cause of accident in the convoy during OP Parakram was investigated by a Court of Inquiry.

4. All cases of accidents in Ordnance/Ammunition Depots have been investigated by Courts of Inquiry including possibility of sabotage. Probable causes of such accidents on analysis of past cases are as under:-

(i) Fires due to spontaneous combustion.

(ii) Electrical Short-circuit.

(iii) Accidental explosions during testing/repair/breakdown of ammunition.

5. All the cases of accidents in Ordnance Factories due to fire/explosion are inquired into to find the causes and to take remedial measures.

6. Indents have been placed by the Army on the Ordnance Factories to expeditiously replenish the ordnance supply to the combat troops.

7. Modernization of Army Ordnance Depots including improvement of safety measures is an ongoing process. Government has approved an amount of Rs.1413.34 crores since 1998 till date for the upgradation of the ammunition storage facilities. Government has also approved modernization of the existing security and fire prevention infrastructure in the

Central Ammunition Depot at Pulgaon, Field Ammunition Depot at Jodhpur and one Ammunition Company as a pilot project.

8. The steps taken in the ordnance Factories to insulate them from such accidents are:-

(a) A detailed safety procedure has been formulated for strict compliance.

(b) Regular safety committee meetings are held to ensure safety awareness amongst employees..

(c) Manufacture and storage of explosives/ammunition is carried out strictly in accordance with the existing guidelines.

(d) Gadgets like CCTV, automatic fire detection and drenching system are provided in high risk/fire prone areas.

(e) A three tier system of safety audit exists in each factory which carries out periodical safety audit.

(f) Strict access control is maintained to prevent any unauthorized entry inside factory premises.

RFP route for manufacture of vehicles by VFJ

888. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur (VFJ) has been asked to come through Request for Proposal (RFP) route for manufacture of variants of existing series of vehicles;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor when VFJ is captive unit cater to requirement of armed forces;

(c) whether placement of indent on VFJ requires a clearance from Finance Ministry;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the sanctioned manpower strength of VFJ, category-wise and existing manpower; and

(f) the action taken to fill up the vacancies keeping in view the present age profile of employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No variants of existing series of vehicles manufactured by VFJ are being procured at present. However, containers (only body without vehicle) for specific purposes, based on existing vehicles, are under procurement. The vehicles being used for mounting these containers will be sourced from VFJ only, as and when required. VFJ was asked to follow the RFP route for various containers developed by them.

(c) and (d) The placement of indent on VFJ would not require clearance from Ministry of Finance.